Accurate English Translation of the Notarial Register Page

(Notary Public Antero Tamayo, Sara, Iloilo – entries from 1920–1921)

Notarial Register of Mr. Antero Tamayo

Under appointment dated 5 January 1920, valid until 31 December 1921

Municipality of Sara, Province of Iloilo, Philippine Islands

The page contains several sworn declarations (juramentos) made for the purpose of proving ownership of land under the new American land-registration system (mostly to support applications for Torrens titles or tax declarations). The relevant entries that mention the Arada and Matutino families are the following:

Entry No. 486 – 28 December 1920

Sworn statement (juramento) of Eustaquio [full name illegible, probably Eustaquio Ávila]

He declares under oath that the parcel of agricultural land referred to in Tax Declaration No. 6496 is his exclusive property, inherited from his father Mamerto Eustaquio (or Bustaquio), and that his said father already possessed and cultivated the land **before 26 July 1894.**

Entry No. 487 – 28 December 1920

Sworn statement (juramento) of an unidentified declarant (possibly the same or a relative)

He declares that another parcel referred to in a certain declaration of ownership is the property of Ávila Eustaquio, inherited from Guillermo Arada, his father Mamerto Castagno, and that the latter already owned and possessed it **as early as 26 July 1894**.

Entry No. 488 – 28 December 1920

Sworn statement (juramento) of Juan Prestinguez (or Prestinguez)

He declares under oath that the parcel of land covered by Tax Declaration No. 327925 is the property of his mother Laurencia Bacete, who already possessed and cultivated it **before 26 July 1894**, and that she has been in continuous, public, and peaceful possession up to the present.

(The other entries on the same page – Nos. 483–485 – refer to unrelated persons: Arcadio de Chávez, Marcelo Paide, Rosero, Mamerto Cartageno Morla, etc.)

All these declarations were made to prove ownership and possession **prior to 26 July 1894** – the crucial cut-off date under Philippine law (derived from the Treaty of Paris and the

Philippine Bill of 1902) for establishing private ownership without need of a Spanish title, i.e., to qualify the land as private property registrable under the Torrens system.

Fees paid: 0.50 pesos each

Cédula certificates: some presented, others (especially women) exempt) “no exhibió cédula personal por razón de su sexo”.

Source (in Spanish)

Digital image, FamilySearch (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSHP-P9GY-X?view=fullText : accessed 27 November 2025), image 36 of 69; Notarial Records of Sara, Iloilo, 1920–1921 (Protocol of Notary Antero Tamayo).

Direct link: https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSHP-P9GY-X?view=fullText

Key genealogical information

A person named **Guillermo Arada** (father or son of Mamerto Castagno, grandfather of the declarant) already owned and possessed agricultural land in Sara **before 26 July 1894**. This strongly indicates that the Guillermo Arada who appears in the 1885 polista list (age 27) and who in 1918 bought land together with his wife Leoncia Matutino is the very same man – meaning he was born around 1858–1859 and was still alive and active in land matters at least until the early 1890s.